



U.S. Department of Justice

Environment and Natural Resources Division

SNS
90-13-8-12308, 90-13-8-12309

Appellate Section
P.O. Box 23795
L'Enfant Plaza Station
Washington, DC 20026-3795

Telephone (202) 514-2748
Facsimile (202) 353-1873

March 31, 2010

Electronically Submitted

Mark J. Langer, Clerk
United States Court of Appeals
District of Columbia Circuit
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Preliminary decision document in *Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Dept. of Interior*, D.C. Cir. No. 07-1247, 07-1344

Dear Mr. Langer:

The above-captioned case concerns the “Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2007-2012” (“2007-2012 Five-Year Program”) that the Department of the Interior (“Interior”) prepared to comply with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1341 *et seq.* The Court’s April 17, 2009, opinion identified certain analytical defects in the 2007-2012 Five-Year Program, vacated it, and remanded it to Interior for further analysis and review. In an order dated July 28, 2009, the Court stayed its mandate pending the completion of Interior’s analysis and review.

Interior has finished a preliminary analysis and review. The attached document, entitled “Preliminary Revised Program, Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program 2007-2012,” sets out Interior’s preliminary conclusions. Interior plans to solicit and review public comments on these preliminary conclusions. After that comment period has concluded and comments have been considered, Interior will prepare a final decision document, promptly notify this Court upon its issuance, and then move for appropriate disposition of this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sambhav N. Sankar
Sambhav N. Sankar

cc: Brendan Cummings
Steven Rosenbaum
Peter Van Tuyn